

ŠRÎ SÂI LEELA

Šrî Shirdi Sai Bâbâ Temple

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“Help Ever, Hurt Never”

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December 2017

“ If you place complete faith in the Lord at all times, you will receive His grace. Grace takes away the pain of Karma “ - Šrî Sâi Bâbâ.

President’s year end report 2017 and New Year’s Message of 2018.

Dear Embodiment’s of Divine Love and Peace:

May Sai Baba bless all of us a Happy New year with Health and Wealth. Jan 13-16, 2017 - World peace yagna was rendered in Puttaparthi with 80 priests and 22 Homam Kundas for Peace and prosperity of all.

The Temple renders daily Homam and has a Dhuni all days.

The temple is maintaining 2 Veda Patasalas, one in Kakinada and one in Puttaparthi with about 50 students and 4 Veda Pundits and related staff. Also more than 20 cows are being maintained to take care of Veda Pata saala students.

Annadanam: Daily Annadanam is rendered during the year in Kakinada and Puttaparthi-schools. Also rendered Annadanam throughout the year at Old age homes, railway station, Dharmasala, and other needy places and fed thousands of people. Annadanam was also rendered in the USA throughout the year at soup kitchens and donated food at food pantries.

Special Annadanam was rendered in Sri Lanka, Shirdi, Annamalai, Kanchipuram in India during Feb. and Mar.

Temple celebrated Maha Sivaratri, Ugadi, Hanuman and Gayatri Jayanthi, Janmastami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Dasara , Deepavali and Kartika Masa pujas.

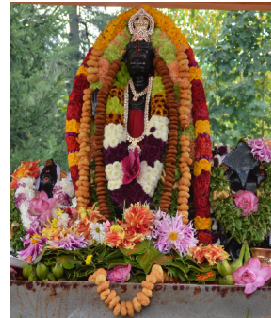
NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATIONS

Sunday Dec 31st, 2017 -Bhajans 8 pm to 12 am

Dear Sai Family,

Sri Shirdi Sai Baba temple will have New Year’s Eve celebrations on Sunday December 31st, 2017. We will welcome the New Year 2018 with Bhajans, Baba Archana & Jyoti Arati. Temple has been hosting New Year’s Eve bhajans for 12 years now, and it has become a tradition for a lot of families to spend 31st evening in the grace of Baba. **COME JOIN US TO START THE NEW YEAR WITH BABA’S BLESSINGS.**

In August, a special Varuna (rain) Yagnam was rendered for the sevre drought in Puttaparthi & Rayala Seema. BABA showed his grace with rain with Chitravathi and other rivers flowing again.



Significant Temple Event: The event was to consecrate an 8 ft Hanuman statue, but due to unforeseen circumstances the statue was delivered broken, and therefore could not be consecrated. By Baba’s grace a 3ft Hanuman statue along with a Naga Subramanyam statue was air lifted by FedEx for the **Sthapana**. The New temple construction has been started with

the sthapana of Ganesha, Hanuman and Subrahmanya (Naga) Pratishta on Vijaya dasami day Sep 30th, 2017 as Kshetra Palakas with great pomp and celebration. **Hanuman is considered the 11th Rudra Avatar of Lord Siva, therefore the Ganesha and Subramanya were also consecrated.**

Cultural Programs – Sri K. V. Satyanarayana garu arranged dance performance with his Students. For Navaratri local classical carnatic singers and students performed before Baba.

Classes: Sanskrit, Vedic, Bharata Natyam, Veena, Carnatic Vocal classes started this year from Vijaya Dasami.

Thank you all with immense gratitude and love for your continued support to the temple for more than 3 decades. This is all possible only with your continued support and Baba’s grace. Service to beings is more dear to God.

2018 New Year Celebrations

Monday Jan 1 New Year Prayers

09.30 am Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Abhishekam

10.30 am Sri Sai Navagraha Homam

11.00 am Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam

Sri Sai Archana / Sahasranamam

Annadanam in India

\$11 (22 meals) \$54 (108 meals)

\$108 (216 meals) \$252 (504 meals)

\$504 (1008 meals) \$1,008 (2016 meals)

\$2,520 (5040 meals) \$5,004 (10,008 meals)

Other _____

New Year's Message 2018 :

We pray Baba to guide all of us in the new year to face the challenges of life with joy and courage. I will share with you **5 Principles of Sri Shirdi Saibaba to guide us all.**

Following five alms every day bestows longevity, health, peace and prosperity for everyone.

1. Feeding Cows with Green Grass and Fodder brings peace and prosperity in one's life and confers joyful living.
2. Feeding Birds with all kinds of grains results in growth of wealth of one's professional and Spiritual wellbeing.
3. Feeding sugar to Ants, one gets relief from burden of debts, joint pains and indigestion.
4. Curd rice feeding to Dogs chases out one's internal and external enemies. As per Epic Ramayana, Dog feeding relieves dog birth due to previous birth sins, committed by one by stealing the wealth from temples (Devatas) and Virtuous Devotees (Brahmana).
5. Feeding Wheat Powder balls and parched rice to Fishes and Tortoise may get one's lost respect in the society, prestige, fame and popularity back.

May Baba bless us all with his love and grace, and guide us through this time of Kali yuga.

***MAY ALL DENIZENS OF ALL THE WORLDS BE HAPPY.
PEACE-TRANQUILITY-SERENITY***

Yours in Service

President - Sri Panduranga Rao Malyala

SIGNIFICANCE OF RUDRA ABHISHEKAM

Devotees who visit Shirdi Sai Temple frequently might have observed that Rudra Abhishekam is performed every day at the Temple at 10 am. It is a beautiful spiritual experience and is very soothing to the mind which is usually tense and wayward. This auspicious service is performed in about 45 minutes.

The Suras and Asuras (devas and demons) churned the Ksheera Sagara (Ocean of Milk) for Amritam (nectar of immortality) with Vasuki, the serpent king as the rope, and Mandara Mountain as the churning rod. Maha Vishnu Himself supported the mountain as the pivot. (in the form of a giant turtle). The massive churning produced much venom in the process of separating the amritam, choking the entire creation, as it were. Everybody was afraid of the effects of the poison, and prayed to Lord Siva (the destroyer of evil) to come to their rescue. With all His benevolence, He ap-

peared, ready to absorb the venom. Sarva Mangala Devi Bhavani, the consort of Siva, approved of His intention to swallow the poisonous Kalakuta (also referred to Halahala), after being convinced that it was a necessary action to save the universe. Having full confidence in Her golden mangalya, She readily gave Her consent.

Lord Siva condensed the entire poisonous emulsion into a lingam. He then swallowed it, retaining it in His throat! The venom was so hot, it produced a visible blue mark in His throat. The ten basic sense elements and the mind constituting a human being are known as ekadasa rudras. The tendency of the mind is always to wander outwardly, and is often restless and even violent, because it constantly seeks action. The angst of the mind is like halahala, the fatal poison, equally hot and ferocious.

Therefore, ekadasa Rudra Abhishekam is performed to cool down and calm the mind, and the senses which are under its control. The 11 sacred oblations used are: milk, yoghurt (buttermilk), ghee (clarified butter), honey, syrup, fruit juice, Ganges water, turmeric water, vibhuthi water, sandalwood water and coconut water. These consecrated liquids poured on the Siva Lingam during Abhishekam to the chanting of relevant hymns invoking Maha deva and Maha Vishnu (who are the primeval curers) remove the anxiety and violent tendencies of the mind. The relaxed mind is now able to withdraw inwards and seek the Brahman that dwells within. Established in Divinity, the devotee then experiences a serene and lasting happiness that he is blessed with in the communion of Godhead. This is what the Sai Baba's meaning when saying, '**If you look to me, I will look to you**'.

The opening mantram in Rudram is **namaste rudra manyava utota** I have nama: Rudra is rut (sorrow)+hara (destroy), or remover of sorrow. The mantra, thus, removes anxiety and offers peace and happiness to all.

The Rudram appears in Panchama Prapathaka: Chathuryam Vaiswadevam Kandam, Taittiriya Samhita of Krishna Yajurveda. It has two components, the Namakam and Chamakam. Namakam is a majestic prayer describing the glory of Mahadeva, and Chamakam are pleadings for the 450 blessings He can endow us with.

In His revelations, Sri Sathya Baba says, 'The Lingam is a symbol of Beginning less and Endless of the Infinite. Its shape is like a Nirakar. Li stands for liyate meaning that in which all names and forms merge; and Gam stands for gamyate meaning that from which all forms proceed. It is the fittest symbol of the omnipotent, omniscient, and om-

nipresent Lord. Everything starts from it and everything is subsumed in it.'

The ellipsoid or ovoid is taken as the form of energy. To concentrate upon Divine Energy as that which makes, moves and motivates spheroids of creation, the ellipsoid is used as the symbol of Energy since it is the first conceivable form of energy. The ellipsoid is the basic form worshipped as the Lingam by the Hindus, as the Cross by the Christians, and observed as the Crescent by the Mohammedans.

Namakam, the first part of Rudram ends thus. The penultimate hymnal verse is appropriately split below in order to convey comprehensive connotation.

namo rudrebhyo ye prithivyam yesham annam ishavastebyo

dasa prachirdasa dakshina dasa pratichir dasdordhva te no mridayantu te yam dvishmo yascha no dveshti tam vo jambhe dadhami

namo rudrebhyo ye ntarikshe yesham vato ishavastebyo dasa prachirdasodirchirdasodhrvastebyo no mridayantu te yam dvishmo yascha no dveshti tam vo jambhe dadhami

namo rudrebhyo ye divi yesham varsham ishvastebya dasaprachirdasa dakshina dasa prachir dasodirchir dasodhrvastebyo no mridayantu te yam dvishmo yascho no dveshti tam vo jambhe dadhami

Salutations to those Rudra ganas in the earth, in the sky and in the celestial regions, and those who utilize food (annam), air (vato) and rain (varsham) like arrows to destroy creatures. To them I offer my salutations with folded hands in the 4 directions and above. Let them make us happy. I consign all our foes into your yawning mouth. Chamakam part of the Rudram culminates thus:

ida deva hurmanurajnanir -brhaspatiruktamadhani sagamsishadvivedeva: suktavacha: prvimatarm ma higamsirmadhu manishye madhu janishye madhu vakshyami madhu vadishya mi mdhumati devebhyo vacha-mudyasa-gam susru-shenyam manush-yebhyastam ma deva avantu Sobhayai pitaro numudantu Aum santi: santi: santi:

I am devoid of faults by the grace of Kamadhenu who invites the devas, Manu who creates the desire to perform sacrifices, Prajapati who repeats scriptural mantras which creates joy and Visvadevas who utter the suktas. So, Mother Earth! Do not cause me agony. My thoughts and actions will always be sweet. My mind will always be like moonlight. I will choose only sweet things for the worship of gods. My words will be sweet as honey to both gods and human beings who like to hear sweet words. Let gods protect me from oral flaws, and let my forefathers approve of them. Aum, peace, serenity, tranquility!

THE JOY OF GIVING:

The character of Karna in the epic Mahabharatam is fascinating. He was born with an armor and earrings which ensured him immortality and invulnerability. He was a prince who could not resist giving, at any cost. When Krishna came in the guise of a poor brahmin and tricked him to give him the armor and earrings, Karna did not hesitate, in spite of knowing the consequences. The ecstasy of giving overwhelmed everything else. He knew that the sheer act of giving would save him ultimately!

After Mahabharata war ended, Lord Krishna once visited King Yudhishtira. The royal assembly was full of sages, seers, ministers and eminent men and women to meet the Lord. In this great gathering, Dharmaputra politely asked Krishna, 'Sir! You are the Lord of the whole universe. Every little thing, animate and inanimate, belongs to You. Why is it, then, you accept gifts even if it were a leaf of Tulasi? How can we give You what is Your own? How come you say that it pleases You?'. Janardhana smiled bewitchingly and answered the king with another question, 'Why do you feel happy when your subjects present you with gifts, even though everything in your kingdom belongs to you?'. Every parent knows the joy of accepting what is offered by their child. Here is another interesting mythological anecdote. God created three kinds of people: the devas who were satvik, the humans being who had both rajasa and tamasa characters and demons who were essentially tamasik. None of them had elbows which are necessary to bend the hand for various chores including the very important task of eating.

The devas solved the problem instantly; they used their hands like ladles, and fed one another. The human beings took time to learn the trick, but did so in due course of time. The demons never learned the art of giving and almost perished before there was divine intervention!

THE VALUE OF THE GIFT IS NOT NECESSARILY IN THE GIFT, BUT IN THE ACT ITSELF.

Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Pittsburgh is grateful for the unstinted support of its devotees. As the year closes we seek your donations be used for worthy causes such as the various Pujas and Festivals, Annadanam, Go (Cow)rakshana, and Veda uddharana.

Sri Baba says, 'If there is no charity, wealth has no intrinsic value at all.'

Jai Sai Ram!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - December 2017 Samvatsaram: Sri Heyvilambi / Dakshinâyanam

Mâsam : Mârgasiram till Pushyam; **Rutuvu** – Hemantha

Dec 01 Fri Margasira Krishna Trayodasi - Pradosham

6.30 pm Rudra Abhishekam \$36; Siva Archana \$18

Dec 02 Sat Krittikâ deepam

11 am & 6.30 pm Satya Narayana Vratam \$54

Krittikâ deepam - Oil lamps 6 \$12

Dec 03 Sun Margasira (Datta, Korala) Poornima

09.30 am Sai Datta abhishekam \$54

10.00 am Sai Datta Homam \$126

Datta Arachana \$18

Flower Service \$36

Jyothi arathi \$108

Dec 6 Wed Margasira Krishna (Sankatahara) Chaturthi

10:00 am Ganapathi Abhishekam \$54

11:00 am Ganapathi Homam \$126

06:30 pm "GA" kara Sahasram \$36

Dec 15 Fri Margasira Sukla Trayodasi - PRADOSHAM

10.00 am Sri Sai Rudra Homam \$126

6.30 pm - Ekavara Sri Rudra Abhishekam \$36

Siva Archana \$18

Dec 16 Sat Margasira Krishna Chaturdasi -Masa Sivaratri

10.00 am 360 Rudra Abhishekam \$108

10.30 am Sri Rudra Homam \$126

07.00 pm Jyoti Arati \$108

Dec 17 Sun Margasira Amavasya , Geeta Jayanthi &

Dhanu Sankramanam

08.00 am Deva Rishi Pitru Tarpanam \$27

06.00 pm Parasurama Jayanthi Vedaparayana \$21

Dec 23 Sat Margasira Sukla Masa (Subrahmanya) Shashti

10.00 am Subrahmanya Abhishekam \$54

11.00 am Subrahmanya Puja \$21

Dec 25 Mon Christmas - 10.00 am Peace Prayers

Dec 26 Tue Margasira Sukla Astami

Mâsa Durgâshtami

10.30 am Durga Homam \$54

Durga Archana \$18

Dec 29 Fri Mukkoti Ekâdasi & Krittikâ deepam

10.00 am Vishnu Sahasranam Homam \$126

Krittikâ deepam - Oil lamps 6 \$12

Dec 30 Sat Shani Trayodasi & PRADOSHAM

10.00 am Shaniswara Abhishekam \$54

11.00 am Shaniswara Homam \$126

Shaniswara Arachana \$18

6.30 pm Ekavara Rudra Abhishekam \$36

shiva Archana \$18

Dec 31 Sun New Years Eve Bhajans

Sunday Dec 31st, 2017 -Bhajans 8 pm to 12 am

2017 New Year Celebrations

Jan 1 Mon New Year Prayers

9.30 am Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Abhishekam \$108

10.30 am Sri Sai Navagraha Homam \$252

11.00 am Sri Sai Satyanarayana Vratam \$54

Sri Sai Archana \$11 / Sahasranamam \$21

Temple Programs or Projects you can Support:

Annadanam(Narayana seva) : _____

Go (Cow) Rakshana (maintenance): _____

Veda Uddharana(Veda Patasala): _____

General Donation(maintenance): _____

Sai Family (Annual)Sponsorship(\$252): _____

Temple improvement Fund Amount: _____

New Temple construction 1 brick - \$252 _____

Sponsored Puja(s): _____ **Date:** _____ **Donation:** _____

Payment Method : Check Cash Credit Card ; *Please make check payable to:* SRI SHIRDI SAI BABA TEMPLE

Name _____

Names & Birthstars: _____

Address _____

1. _____

City, State, Zip _____

2. _____

For Credit Card: Card No. _____ Exp _____ CVC _____ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Gotram _____